Douglas Valentine: CIA, Drug Trafficking, and the JFK Assassination (2011)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1hzoVhMU8c (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1hzoVhMU8c)

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This is a talk from the 2011 Coalition on Political Assassinations Conference. Douglas Valentine, author of Strength of the Pack discusses the nexus of CIA drug trafficking and the JFK Assassination. Original video of the talk came from on COPA's ustream channel (no longer available).

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oh hello John I know your folks have been having some technical difficulties today I feel bad about that but it certainly nevertheless quite an honor to be able to speak tonight to such a well-informed and curious audience I hope that what I could say in the next couple of minutes make something of a difference I would like to talk today about the impact of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics what I'll call the FBN how what the f BN played in some of the events surrounding the assassination of JFK and I'd like to suggest and trying to show how it might have been possible that an assassin might have moved in and out of position in Dallas as part of a drug smuggling network that was protected to some extent by the CIA and certain winning fbn agents and I'd also like to raise the possibility that an assassin that the assassin could have been a double agent who had penetrated one of the protected networks that made its way into Dallas so let me begin by pointing out that spies and drug smugglers and federal narcotic agents have one thing in common that's very important they all assumed false identities to smuggle illegal items across borders and they are also experts at avoiding and corrupting police and security officers so and and I'd like to give you a little relevant history just to set the stage for what I'm going to say in America spies and drug smugglers I've worked together as a matter of

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I've worked together as a matter of official but unstated policy since World War two when the military hired mafioso all around the country to ferret out Nazi saboteurs along the coastline as well as to prevent labor strikes along the water for Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano made the deal with the military and later in the war the Mafia worked with u.s. intelligence in Italy in France and just about every other place around the world criminology professor Allen block who some of you may be familiar with has asserted that this so-called Luciano project marked a turning point in American political history at which professional criminals continued to ply their trade but for new patrons and those new patrons were America's master spies people like Conor CIA counterintelligence Chief James Angleton so this is a very big deal but keep in mind that the drug smugglers and that drug smugglers and assassins in the underworld may also be double agents working for enemy intelligence services and and Angleton certainly always considered this so I believe and I'll try to show why some of the secrecy surrounding the JFK assassination has a lot to do with covering of

this unholy alliance between America's top drug smugglers politicians and spies and I'll I'll give you some some more history that's relevant to events in Dallas and why I feel this way ok US government protection of drug traffickers began long before the CIA existed started in 1926 the government secretly protected

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1926 the government secretly protected the drug trafficking Chinese nationalists because of course the Nationalists were fighting the Communist Chinese and America always supports anybody who's fighting the Communists in the 1930s and 40s several a very important fbn agents knew that the Chinese nationalists that their heroin was entering the u.s. through ports and Galveston and Tampa New Orleans San Francisco and New York as well as Overland from Mexico into Texas but for many reasons they just stood back and watched more reasons than I can get it to now the Mafia got involved in this Chinese nationalists protected drug network in 1939 just a little bit before the Luciano project started up when Meyer Lansky sent his confidential agent Virginia Hill to Mexico where she famously seduced a number of top Mexican politicians army officers diplomats and police officials him and brought them into this mafia drug Network Virginia Hill bought a nightclub in Nuevo Laredo and started smuggling heroin into Texas with a woman named dr. Margaret Chung very important dr. Chung was a member of the drug smuggling hip st. Tom which was pretty much that outlet for Chinese nationalists heroin in the United States and she was also the attending physician to the Flying Tigers which was the private airline did the government form to fly supplies to the Chinese nationalists okay so the Flying Tigers were the parent of the CIA's drug smuggling airline Air America which JFK had a lot of problems with and by 1950

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had a lot of problems with and by 1950 the CIA was underwriting both the chinese nationalist drug smugglers as well as working with the drug smuggling Mexican intelligence service the DFS which Professor Peter Dale Scott has written a lot about recently okay so Witten fbn agents knew that dr. Chung was trafficking in San Francisco New Orleans New York and Chicago and they kept they watched her for years but they never made an arrest they looked away not only because the Nationalists were fighting the Communists but because by the 1950s federal and local police forces were allowing the Mafia to distribute drugs to the black black community in the United States for purposes of political repression so you have to always remember the war on drugs is an instrument of political repression just like the assassination of John Kennedy can be seen in the context of that of political repression as well and the assassins who serve the elite the national security leader on the country as instruments of political repression these assassins are often bred in that dark corner of the underworld where spies and drug smugglers mingle and I'll tell you a little bit about that this is where it gets more relevant through the 1950s and 1960s a few winning fbn agents naturally assumed a central role as intermediaries between the CIA and the drug smuggling underworld assassins one of these fbn agents with Charlie Siragusa and in 1960 when CIA officer bill Harvey was looking for someone later codenamed QJ Winn to recruit assassins from the CIA fbn agent charlie

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assassins from the CIA fbn agent charlie Siragusa appeared at the top of bill Harvey's list Siragusa was an expert on Corsican and Sicilian assassins and course kids were recommended Harvey said because Sicilians could lead to the Mafia which again brings us back to the the connections the CIA had with the Mafia through the Luciano program project why would the CIA want to hire Corsicans in order to protect the drug smuggling mafioso in its employ that's the question that that rises from Harvey wanting course against and of course the I the the answer that comes to mind is that the CIA was planning assassinations at the United States and Corsican x' would be less likely to be tracked back to the CIA the mafioso okay so the person chosen for the QJ wind job was a drug smuggler QJ wind being that the recruiter of Assassins and the person chosen for that QJ wind job was a drug smuggler who worked for the FBN in Luxembourg in the 1950s in 1962 the CIA quashed drug smuggling charges brought against this guy QJ went so he would be free to arrange the assassination of Patrice Lumumba so the CIA by 1962 is using drug smugglers brought to

his attention by the FBN in political assassinations give you another example of how this works there is evidence to indicate that Harold Meltzer a big-time drug smuggler and a major player in the protected Mexican drug network I mentioned above was

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drug network I mentioned above was probably very likely another space ass and the CIA tried to recruit through the FBM back in the nineteen forties the FBI knew that Meltzer traveled regularly between Mexico City Cuba and Hong Kong and in 1951 FBI agents arrested him and set him to prison after he got out of prison Meltzer settled in Los Angeles and in November 1960 someone almost certainly FBN agent George white who some of you are probably familiar with put Meltzer in touch with Johnny Roselli and in December 1960 the CIA through Rosalee asked Meltzer to join an assassination team so again another example of the CIA actually using the FBI using fbn agents to reach out to assassins for some kind of work that nobody I'm sure knows all the assassinations that they they conducted but the facts are they're like they're doing this okay now it's also [Music] significant in terms of the Kennedy assassination that fbn agents George white and Charlie Siragusa both provided cover for the CIA's MKULTRA drug testing program which had as one of its aims creating push-button assassins who had possessed no memory of their deeds in the summer of 1960 the CIA directed fbn agent charlie Siragusa to open an MKULTRA safe house in New York City and soon after that they asked him to recruit an assassination squad this is documented fact the CIA was offering a million dollars per hit the CIA also asked fbn agent Siragusa to set up a

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asked fbn agent Siragusa to set up a detective agency as a front for illegal CIA operations in america Siragusa center refused to do either of these things and that may be true but certainly other people people like guy Bannister for example were certainly willing to play along I don't know that Bannister did exactly but he seems to me like a person that would have I should also note that the CIA used the zone fbn safe houses to get politicians high on drugs and fill them with prostitutes some who were probably intelligence agents and a person like Ellen Robb's that comes to mind and the CIA also use these MKULTRA safe houses to accommodate its drug smuggling assets from around the world from the Far East from Burma Corsicans a lot these are places where drug smugglers can can stay for free without anybody knowing they're in the country okay so by 1960 unwitting fb8 unwitting FBI agents agents who were working for the CIA we're increasingly making cases on Corsican linked to the French intelligence service a dick and its rival the secret army organization the OAS as well as the CIA this two leads up to two Dallas a little known fact is that one course again the FBN arrested in 1960 named labor leader irving brown as an accomplice the unwitting FBI agents found in their investigation that Brown was a CIA agent and that he had port

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was a CIA agent and that he had port privileges in New York meaning that his baggage was never checked by customs and they also found out that he frequently traveled with a Corsican drug smuggler smuggler named Maurice castellani the CIA notably shut down the FBI ends investigation of CIA agent Brown and castellani who he was traveling with they certainly knew everything that was going on with these people then in 1962 unwitting FBI agents those not working for CIA arrested castellón EES partner a Corsican smuggler named Francois Scalia but Scalia is controller in this operation a Frenchman using the alias jean moran escaped and i can't get into all the details but he never should have it's almost as if he was allowed to escape I believe through years and years of researching all this that John Moran very likely was Michel Victor Mertz a sadecki agent who managed a heroin network between France and New York with Santo Trafficante jr. as you all know the CIA in 1960 hired trafficante to assassinate Castro using MKULTRA technology in part developed by fbn agents working for the CIA and once traffic auntie who was the probably the biggest drug smuggler in the United States went to work for the CIA his drug network was protected and that protection evidently carried over to Michelle Victor Mertz as it also did to Aaron Brown and Maurice Castellani this protected traffic on Team Mertz

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this protected traffic on Team Mertz Network drug smuggling network reached Dallas through traffic on tees courier Benny individual again this is a documented fact so the question becomes could or did the CIA use one of its protected drug networks to infiltrate an assassin into Dallas the system was set up we know there's protected Jordan networks we know it hires assassins who are drug smugglers and they are there so they could have done it and it's also possible that a drug smuggler a professional drug trafficker an assassin like Mertz could have infiltrated the CIA's protected drug trafficking networks and use the opportunity to carry out an assassination in other words the CIA could have been tricked at its own game he's home getting some of you or all of you may know Michele Mertz emerged as a suspect in the assassination in 1964 when the French S asked the FBI to investigate reports that OAS terrorist jean sweat ro wasn't Dallas on November 22nd and had been expelled by the i ns that very same day sweat rule was questioned and denied the charge and said that Mertz off the deck agent who had infiltrated the OSS was impersonating him the AI NS agents description somewhat fit Mertz but no one ever compared that description to any photographs every on had of the mystery man from 1962 J Moran Moran nor was it compared to any photographs the FBN may have had of sweat from who allegedly was a drug trafficker well as well and had been filed for years by it

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well and had been filed for years by it the FBN and Marseille the CIA was certainly monitoring both sweatshirt and Mertz so it would be impossible for them especially counterintelligence chief J James Hamilton to confuse the two it's his job to know who these people are and what they're doing but if as has been alleged Angleton was a Soviet or a Mossad Moll he could have moved an assassin into Dallas using the brown castellani Network I mentioned or the overland route that had been established in 1939 the nationalist Chinese one that moved from Mexico went to Texas overland or he could have used the Mertz traffic convey into big Leo route into Dallas all these things are possible and through MKULTRA angleton the central figure in all this could have used Jack Ruby to assassinate the designated Patsy Lee Harvey Oswald and here again Witten fbn agents who are virtually absent from any investigation that anybody ever did into the assassination these f BN agents potentially play a critical role they work for the CIA protecting its drug smugglers recruiting its assassins and staffing it's MKULTRA safehouses the usual suspects are George white and Charlie Siragusa both were involved in the Luciano project and worked for the CIA both were assassination experts and both knew Angleton white notably and this is just a little more history Matt Santo Trafficante senior in September 1945 and right after that meeting traffic on T

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right after that meeting traffic on T acquired total control of the Cuba to Tampa drug connection and in 93 weeks after that Manning George white became the FBN supervisor in Chicago where at the same time guy Bannister was a senior FBI agent in 1946 in Chicago fbn agent George white obtained none other than Jack Ruby as an informant okay the Chicago mob sent Ruby to Dallas in 1947 and in 1950 in 1950 through fbn agent white Jack Ruby briefed the Kefauver committee about organized crime in Chicago on the one condition that the committee stay away from Dallas and the committee went along with that and I believe that white and all the committee members agreed to stay out of Dallas to protect the CIA nationalist Chinese mafia drug operation out of Mexico into Texas fr8 Oh Ruby and again this is documented in fact was a small part of this protected drug route and by 1958 the FBN the part of it that's not connected with the CIA had a stab is that established at Ruby's boss Joe Sevilla ran the heroin business in Dallas in 1958 the FBN linked Civello to traffic Conti and described Civello as Carlos Marcello's deputy and Dallas and yet the Warren Commission found no significant link between Ruby and organized crime again I believe at least partially to deflect attention from the CIS connection to all the drug smuggling that was going on again this is why the

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that was going on again this is why the FBN the bureau of narcotics is like the one element that never gets brought up in the assassination nobody wanted it to track back to the CIA protected drug routes and

assassins and all that stuff obviously there were compartments within the FBI for example Marie Brown the FBN supervisor in Dallas on November 22nd 1963 said to me that he knew nothing about the Mafia in in Dallas and he insisted to me that ruby was not an FBI informant okay but fbn headquarters in Washington had a file on route which Secret Service chief James Riley requested on November 25th 1963 Ruby's file was given to Raleigh but he never returned likewise the file on Jack Ruby in the New York office went missing after the assassination and again I believe in both cases it's because ruby was George White's secret informant but in White's capacity as a CIA agent non-us enough BN agent the one thing that I think is miss most important about this is I interviewed an old FBI agent who later became a DEA inspector named Richard Solomon and 1978 saw me was part of a joint CIA DEA investigation of MKULTRA Tommy told me that he found evidence that George White had used Ruby to kill Oswald and I wrote this about I wrote about this in my latest book Saamy said that he was told by his CIA bosses on this victims task force not to tell senator ted kennedy about his findings senator kennedy had generated

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findings senator kennedy had generated this victim's task force investigation into MKULTRA sámi told me that he had also found evidence that JFK had used the New York MKULTRA safehouse to compromise his political enemies and that that is why senator Kennedy agreed to Center his report which is not part of obviously the the uncensored part is not a part of the official record and as far as I know Saamy never told this to anyone I can't prove it but it did tell me another little-known fact about the FBM right after the assassination Mexican officials intercepted a call to Havana from the Cuban embassy in Mexico City the Cubans were allegedly claiming credit for the JFK assassination but instead of telling the FBI or the CIA they told the FBN agent in charge of Mexico City a guy named William Derka Derka : FB n headquarters in Washington which relayed this particular piece of information to against Secret Service chief Rowley at which point the theory that castro had arranged the JFK assassination began to emerge its own as a viable alternative to the lone nut' theory you folks are all know much more about this and I do there may have been other reports coming in about this but it did come in through the FBN as well so there were lots of dots to connect that connect the FB ends of the assassination of John Kennedy and the last one the one last thing I would like to say is that before closing so I'd like to remind you that Rosharon e predicted JFK was going to be killed she

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predicted JFK was going to be killed she was a Cheramie was a drug addict and a prostitute working in for Ruby I believe and she heard of this assassination plot while she was traveling from Florida with two men who were Italians or resembled Italians the men were taking her to Dallas to obtain money to buy heroin from a seaman the seaman was to meet them in Euston after disembarking in Galveston the customs agent in Galveston verified that the seaman was being investigated for drug smuggling and the Coast Guard confirmed that it was interested in the ship but the seaman like Moran in 1962 got away when asked by the House Select Committee on assassinations customs officials said that neither the agent nor his reports could be found you may not know this but in 1963 November of 1963 approximately 20 CIA officers were in Texas and Florida operating under customs cover as part of a special unit organized in Houston to penetrate anti-castro terrorist groups in the United States any one of these 20 CIA agents posing as customs officials could have facilitated the movements of the seaman with or without really realizing that the seaman may have been an assassin so that's yet another potential drug connected route that an assassin could have used to get into the country and that takes up all of my time before I even can even touch on the army of CIA protected acumen drug traffickers associated with the assassination people like Rolando piu bella Traficante associate who enjoy diplomatic immunity and could travel

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diplomatic immunity and could travel without his luggage being checked Khun Ella traveled between Spain France Mexico Paris in New York all major transports transit points in the illicit drug trade and again a lot of you probably know on November 21st 1963 in Paris CIA official deserts Gerald who replaced Harvey and a goombella and MKULTRA pen loaded with poison a pendant had been tested in San Francisco by FBI agent George white and was rigged with a hypodermic needle designed specifically for assassinations so there's just a lot of it going on a lot of connections between the FBM and assassinations and I believe the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy so if any of you have any questions I'm probably a lot to digest but on here I'm glad to answer them time we can do I could take one quick but they are already running over okay nobody's got their hand up thank you so much okay John thanks a lot

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END